Ambleside Urban District.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1919.

March, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ambleside.

1919.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1919, compiled in accordance with your instructions and those of the Ministry of Health.

I resumed my duties on February 1st, 1919, after four and a half years of Military Service, during which time the County Medical Officer of Health supervised the work. I am very grateful to him, as this entailed a large increase of responsibility and expenditure of time; his generosity was never failing.

My thanks are due also to you for the necessary permission to be absent, and I believe that the wide experience thus obtained will result in increased efficiency.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,
Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District of Ambleside.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

Area (land & inland water)	4,371	acres.
Population (census 1911)	2,553	
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	2,182	for Birth Rate.
	2,095	for Death Rate.
Population (local estimate)	2,500	
Inhabited houses	608	
Average population per house ...	4.11	

Ambleside is beautifully situated between Windermere and Rydal Lake; it is surrounded by lofty hills of slate rock, whose round-topped ridges covered with moorland grass afford good land for grazing purposes. The climate is mild, and the rainfall rather above the average. The District is well drained by the River Rothay.

It is a residential and holiday resort, and has no large industries.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The net births amounted to 26, made up as follows :—

Legitimate	Males	18
	Females	6
		24
Illegitimate	Males	1
	Females	1
		2

Annual Rate of Births per 1,000 of population ..	11.91
Annual Rate of Births for England and Wales ...	18.5
The net Deaths amounted to	23
Annual Rate of Deaths per 1,000 of population ...	10.97
Annual Rate of Deaths for England and Wales ...	13.8
Excess of Births over Deaths	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	1
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants under 1 year of age ...	0
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	38
Infant Mortality for England and Wales	89

The causes of Death are shown in the accompanying table :—

Scarlet Fever	1
Influenza	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	1
Cancer	1
Organic Heart Disease	5
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1
Other defined Diseases	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1
Total ...	23

INFANT DEATHS.

The cause of death was :—

Tuberculous Meningitis, at the age of 1 month.

There were no Still-births notified.

No notification of Birth was received in 3 cases.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is indicated by the following facts :—

Average daily population in Institutions (Kendal Union) about 140
Annual population receiving Outdoor Relief in Ambleside ... 7

There is no local hospital, but the Westmorland County Hospital affords accommodation for those requiring hospital treatment.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

The water supply of the district is obtained from Scandale Beck. It is abundant in quantity, pure in quality, and constant in supply; it is laid on to all the houses except a few outlying ones, which are supplied from springs or have their own reservoir; from these sources there is a plentiful supply of good quality. The water is soft in character, free from liability to contamination, and has no plumbo-solvent action.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These are under the supervision of the County Council, and no complaints have been received from the Inspector as to any pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is one system for both of these, and drainage is liable to obstruct the outfall works. An excellent up-to-date sewage disposal works is in operation, with settling tanks and aerobic filters. Its capacity is such that it is more than sufficient.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation is as follows:—

Water Closets drained to sewers ...	507
Water Closets drained to cesspools ...	25
Privies	76
Total ...	608

Recent conversions number 1.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by the Local Authority and is efficient; refuse is deposited on a tip at the sewage works, and disinfection of receptacles is carried out after clearance.

There are 248 ashbins which are emptied weeky, and 223 ashpits, of which 42 are combined with privies; they are emptied at suitable intervals, many of them weekly and none at longer intervals than two months. Ashpits to the number of 55 have been substituted by ashbins in recent years, and of this number 6 were so converted in 1919.

There are still a number of privies which could be converted into water closets, and ashpits that might be replaced by ashbins.

INSPECTIONS.

These have been regularly carried out and the following nuisances discovered and abated.

Defective Drains	4
Defective Water Closets	2
Defective Ashpits	2
Defective Spouts	2
Defective Water Supplies	1
Smoke Nuisance	1
House Cleansing	1
Total ...	13

Statutory Notices were issued in 5 cases, and Informal Notices in 10. Non-compliance with Statutory Notices exists in 2 cases.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Slaughter-houses	3
Common Lodging-house	1
Total ...	4

No action has been needed.

There are no underground sleeping rooms.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

No Rag Flock is in use in the District.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supplies are good. There have been no closures for infectious disease. Active co-operation exists between the School Medical Officer and the Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

This is good in quality, but there was a considerable shortage during the Spring on account of Farms changing hands. The arrangements for distribution are satisfactory.

Inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops have been regularly carried out. No action has been taken with regard to Tuberculous Milk.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912, 1917,

Are under the control of the Police, as also the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. One vendor of adulterated milk was prosecuted and fined £3 and £1 1s. Analyst's Fee.

OTHER FOODS.

The sanitary condition of premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale, has been good, and no action was required respecting them.

One carcase of beef was condemned for Tuberculosis, and a hind quarter of frozen beef for partial decomposition.

Inspection of carcases at time of slaughtering is made from time to time; there is always free access, and any question of diseased meat is immediately communicated to the Inspector by the butchers themselves.

No action under Section 117 Public Health Act, 1875, was necessary.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1918.

Is administered by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Prevention of and Control over Infectious Disease.

There was very little Infectious Disease throughout the year. Diphtheria Anti-toxin is in general use, and local supplies can always be obtained from the Borough Police Station, Kendal.

There were no "Return Cases" of Infectious Disease.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred.

Influenza was prevalent in April and May, but the type was not as severe as that of the previous Autumn. The mortality was 3.

The Diseases notifiable under the Regulations of 7th January, 1919, have not been very numerous. The Malaria cases contracted the disease abroad.

Tuberculosis.

There were 2 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified and 1 case of other forms.

Deaths were reported from Pulmonary form in 2 cases and from other forms in 1 case.

Notification by Medical men has been efficient.

School intimations of Infectious Disease have been largely utilized, as also have bacteriological aids in suitable cases.

The Tuberculosis work and that of Venereal Diseases is in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

No Primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There has been no locally-contracted Anthrax nor Rabies.

Table of Notified Infectious Disease.

	Cases.	Removed to Hospital.
Measles ...	8	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	2	1
Tuberculosis (other forms)	1	—
Pneumonia (Influenzal)	4	—
Malaria ...	9	—
Total	24	2

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.

Scarlet Fever (Died out of the District) ...	0.47
Phthisis	0.95

Sanitary Administration.

1. Staff.

This consists of 1 Inspector, who is also Surveyor.

2. Hospital Accommodation.

This is provided for ordinary Infectious Disease at the Kendal Isolation Hospital, and consists of 4 blocks capable of dealing with 46 cases, and a further building situated 3 miles out of the town for Small Pox: this can accommodate 50 patients. There is a good disinfecting plant.

This accommodation is generally adequate, and the administration is good.

3. Local Acts, &c.

The following are in operation :—

Sanitary Clauses of Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.

Sanitary Clauses of Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907.

Bye-Laws are in force for :—

New Buildings.

The administration is effectively carried out.

4. Laboratories.

The combined Districts of Westmorland have established local Laboratories at Kendal for chemical and bacteriological examinations, and these have been in operation since August.

Prior to that date examinations were made by the Public Health Laboratories at Manchester.

The Laboratories are under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. They are proving of great service and are being utilized more and more.

No material for examination was sent to these Laboratories during the latter 5 months of the year.

Most of the examinations are for Diphtheria and Water and a few for Tubercle Bacilli. The examination of this latter is generally done at the Westmorland Consumption Sanatorium, but where an immediate result is desired it is done locally.

HOUSING.

Total Houses	608
Houses for Working Classes	387
New Houses erected, or in course of erection, by private enterprise	7
Population (estimated)	2500

There were no important changes during the year, nor are any anticipated in the near future.

Extent of shortage of houses very slight, and will be adequately met by those being undertaken by private enterprise.

Overcrowding.

There is no serious overcrowding, and where any slight amount exists it is due to the large families. Warnings have been sent in any such cases and agents notified.

Fitness.

The general standard of the houses is good; some dampness occurs during the wet weather.

It has not been found necessary to take any action.

Unhealthy Areas.

There are no extensive areas that can be included under this heading, and no action has been taken nor any complaints made during the year.

Bye-Laws.

The existing Bye-Laws work well, and there is no need for any new ones or revision of the present ones.

APPENDICES.

I.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made by householder that they were unfit for human habitation	Nil.
II.	Number of dwelling houses inspected under Sec. 17 Housing Act, 1909	Nil records completed
	Number of dwelling houses condemned as unfit for human habitation	Nil.
	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied without the making of a Closing Order	Nil.
III.	Action under Section 28 Housing Act	Nil.
IV.	Number of representations made to Authority for the making of Closing Order	Nil.
	Number of Closing Orders made	Nil.
	Number of Closing Orders determined on houses being made fit	Nil.
V.	Number of demolition orders made	Nil.
	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil.
VI.	Number of houses demolished voluntarily ...	Nil.
VII.	Number of representations made regarding obstructive buildings	Nil.
	Number of buildings demolished	Nil.
	Number of representations under consideration ...	Nil.
VIII.	Staff : One Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor.	